

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated October 31, 2006, and have made amendments to the claims. Claims 1-3, 6, 8-11, 13-18 and 20-22 have been amended. Claims 7, 12 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amendment to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification because the status of the parent applications (which this application is continued) are not disclosed. Accordingly, with this paper, the specification has been amended to disclose the all the parent applications and their corresponding status. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as claiming the same invention as claims 1-5 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,564,345.

Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as claiming the same invention as claims 8-12 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,564,345.

Claims 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as claiming the same invention as claims 14-18 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,564,345.

Claims 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as claiming the same invention as claims 12-25 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,564,345.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as claiming the same invention as claim 9 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,691,265.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as claiming the same invention as claim 11 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,691,265.

The above rejections are respectfully traversed. With this paper, independent claims 1, 6, 13 and 18 have been amended. In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims are completely different from either of U.S. Patent No. 6,564,345 or U.S. Patent No. 6,691,265. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-10 and 13-22 under § 101 be withdrawn.

Non-Statutory Double Patenting

Claims 6 and 18 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,265. This rejection is respectfully traversed. As stated above, independent claims 6 and 18 have been amended. In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 6 and 18 are completely different from claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,265. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 6 and 18 for obviousness-type double patenting be withdrawn.

Claims 11-12 were also rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,265. This rejection is respectfully traversed. With this paper, independent claim 11 has been amended while claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice. In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claim 11 is completely different from claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,691,265. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 11 for obviousness-type double patenting be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the present Amendment places all claims of the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

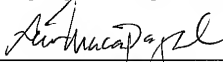
No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California, telephone number (213) 623-2221 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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